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# SUB-COMMISSION CONCLUDES DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

## Takes up Question of New International Economic Order and Promotion of Human Rights

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities Friday morning, 21 August, concluded its examination of the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories (agenda item 6).

It then began consideration of the question of the new international economic order and the promotion of human rights (agenda item 11). This item was introduced by Kwadwo F. NYAMEKE, Officer-in-Charge of the Centre for Human Rights, who noted that the issues before the Sub-Commission under this item were of the highest importance for the promotion and protection of the entire range of the rights of the human person.

Special Rapporteur Asbjorn EIDE introduced his final report on the right to adequate food as a human right (document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/23). He stressed, among other things, that there was a need for a framework for State responsibility to ensure the right to food. To achieve food security, food had to be adequate in quality and quantity, it had to be safe and culturally acceptable. Food procurement had to be viable and access to food had to be sustainable over time, which meant that the food-producing environment had to be protected

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National efforts had to be supplemented by a global commitment to food security. Further negotiations in this regard, however, would be necessary in order to overcome reservations expressed by some Governments. While the right to food was widely recognized in national law, unfortunately the corresponding obligations were vague. International monitoring might be helpful in promoting achievement of national food security, he stated.

The Sub-Commission will meet again at 3 p.m. this afternoon to continue discussion of this new item and to act on a number of draft resolutions.

Statements on Violation of Human Rights

Avraham MILLO, observer for Israel, responding to statements made, said that Syria was a country which was known to have one of the worst human rights records. The Lebanese delegation presented a distorted picture of the situation in his country for political purposes. Israel's policy in the territories aimed at differentiating between the large majority of Arabs who did not accept terrorism and the small minority who did.

R. JAKFAR, observer for Afghanistan, noting the reference to his country by an NGO, said he was surprised to hear the representative of the World Muslim Organization join a political game. For more than eight years now a war was being waged against independent, non-aligned Afghanistan. His Government had called on the Secretary-General to help put an end to the activities conducted against it by certain countries. It was surprising that certain persons who had lost touch with the reality in Afghanistan and resorted to slanderous attacks against it.

Tatjana ANSBACH, observer for the German Democratic Republic, responding to a question by the American expert, said her country's citizens travelled abroad extensively. Since the conclusion of the treaty in 1971, the number of German Democratic Republic citizens visiting or moving to the Federal Republic of Germany had grown.

SON Un, observer for Viet Nam, referring to Democratic Kampuchea, stated that the presence of foreign forces in any country could not automatically be called occupation if it was based on bilateral agreement, which was the case here. However, speakers had not referred to the genocide which had taken place in that country under the previous régime. A just and equitable solution should be based on two aspects - the withdrawal of the Vietnamese forces should go hand in hand with the elimination of the Pol Pot clique.

Richard McKEE, observer for the United States, said his Government was proud of its support for Israel, which was a democratic nation attempting to uphold human rights standards in a difficult security environment. It was also true that the United States did not approve of every action taken by Israel to maintain its security. As for the observations by Nicaragua, regrettably, six days ago that that Government had suppressed peaceful human rights demonstrations and hoped that would not prefigure its attitude towards implementation of the peace accord. The observer for Cuba had maligned Armando Valladares, an American citizen. He applauded the firm stand taken by the chair in this regard to prevent the debate from degenerating further.

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Jorge RUBIO, observer for Peru, responding to comments that incommunicado detentions took place in his country, stated that judicial authorities had to be informed immediately of someone's detention. Furthermore, evidence obtained under torture was not accepted in court.

Christophoros YIANGOU, observer for Cyprus, said the observer for Turkey yesterday had tried to mislead the Sub-Commission by repeating groundless allegations of the suffering Turkish Cypriots. The source of their suffering was based on their seeking to separate themselves from the State of Cyprus. If there was hatred there, it was on the part of Turkey due to its invasion and continued occupation of part of Cyprus. If Turkey wanted to resolve the Cyprus problem, it had to withdraw its occupation forces and Turkish settlers and accept the plan drawn up by the United Nations.

Luis GONZALES ARIAS, observer for Paraguay, referred to statements by three NGOs concerning the indigenous people in Paraguay. One tribe in particular comprised about 150 persons and not 10,000 as was stated. His Government had made some 3,000 hectares available to that tribe, and titles to large tracts of land were being given to various other tribes. The social policy of his Government was to give dignity to the indigenous peoples and treat them equally with other citizens. Concerning the Argentinian children, the competent authorities in Paraguay were co-operating in goodwill with the Argentine authorties to resolve this problem.

Ana GOMES, observer for Portugal, referring to the intervention of Indonesia on East Timor, observed that 40 American senators had recently expressed their concern over the human rights situation there. Portugal was a democratic country and its journalists enjoyed complete freedom to express themselves. The Portugese journalist who visited East Timor had been unable to travel freely, as every aspect of his trip was controlled by the Indonesian authorities.

Mr. ILKAHANAF, observer for Somalia, observed that year after year measures were taken to try to ensure respect for human rights, yet year after year the cries of those whose rights were being violated increased. That was certainly the case of Palestine. As for the Ahmadis, if they believed there was to be another prophet, under the tenets of Islam, they ceased to belong to Islam and therefore this body had no role to play in this regard. Nonetheless, their right to practise their religion as they wished had to be protected.

Naci AKINCI, observer for Turkey, noting the statements made by the observer for Cyprus, said as usual they were full of unfounded allegations intended to confuse and prevent an objective and balanced view. The Greek Cypriot, not the Turkish Cypriot community, had rejected the Secretary-General's plan to resolve the Cyprus situation.

Mansur AHMAD, observer for Pakistan, provided clarification on the right of citizens to challenge acts taken by the authorities regarding arrest and detention. All citizens of Pakistan enjoyed the equal protection of law, no matter whether they belonged to the majority or minority. In Pakistan, the minorities had the same legal status before the law. He noted the expeditious handling of the appeal lodged by the Ahnamis before the Pakistani court system.

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Leopoldo TETTAMANTI, observer for Argentina, aligned himself with the appeal by Pax Christi that the Paraguay authorities quickly resolve the situation to allow the Argentine children concerned to return to their families in Argentina. He hoped that Paraguay would take all the needed legal and other steps for the prompt restoration of these children to their families.

Panayotis CANGELLARIS, observer for Greece, said various speakers had attempted to illustrate the persistent violations of human rights by Turkey not only in Turkey itself but also in the northern part of Cyprus. The observer for Turkey here tried to hide his country's human rights violations. He had tried to give lessons about the "proper performance" of tasks.

Muna POC, observer for Democratic Kampuchea, said it was not the first time the observer of Viet Nam had resorted in a shameless manner to lies to justify its crimes against her people. The international community had condemned Vietnamese aggression against Democratic Kampuchea.

Adolfo VARGAS, observer for Nicaragua, said the observer for the United States expresed concern over what was going on in his country and thanked him for that concern. However, there was nothing in his statement indicating when it would abide by the International Court of Justice ruling, nor when it would accept the request in the Central American treaty to cease supporting the contras. Nicaragua intended and had the political will to fufil its obligations under the treaty and had taken steps to that end. The demonstrations had violated the law requiring permission to hold a demonstration and therefore Nicaraguan law was applied.

Maria FLOREZ, observer for Cuba, declared that Mr. Valladares, who had represented the United States at the Commission on Human Rights, was a member of the Batista people, was tried as such, found guilty and punished. She offered to provide documentary evidence and other information in this regard. That the United States had an individual of that character representing it at the Commission was an affront to the United Nations and the international community.

Benjamin C.G. WHITTAKER, expert from the United Kingdom, said that the recent military coup in Fiji was a reason for concern and Chile had not improved its human rights record. He hoped Switzerland would do everything possible to ensure the return of the assets stolen from Haiti and the Philippines by the discredited former dictators of these countries. He reminded the observer for Iran that 10 or 12 years ago he had also spoken out against the torture methods used under the former régime by SAVAK. The Iranian observer did not mention his Government's refusal to the United Nations Special Rapporteur to enter Iran.

Erica-Irene DAES, expert for Greece, referring to the liberation movements which had status at the United Nations level, said she fully supported their struggle for self-determination and independence. She had listened carefully to the statements made on East Timor by Portugal and Indonesia and totally supported the observations made by Portugal. Extensive information and reports had been received concerning the very sad treatment

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and genocide of the people of East Timorean people. The democratically-elected Government in Guatemala still had a long and difficult way to go in order to ensure domocratic rule in that country. She expressed great satisfaction that Hector GROSPIELL had been appointed to look into the human rights situation there. The human rights situation in the entire Central American region would improve if there were no external interference in their internal affairs. She stressed the need for respect for the rights of the Ahmadis.

Miguel ALFONSO MARTINEZ, expert for Cuba, said the possibility for a two-way dialogue - involving members, NGOs and observers - here was an indispensable element for the Sub-Commission's work. He noted with disappointment that certain questions, doubts and concerns relating to the human rights situation in the United States had not been clarified or allayed by the United States.

Driss DAHAK, expert from Morocco, addressed certain human rights violations which were not clear to him. Much had been said about the Ahmadis, however, it was not clear whether or not they were Muslims. As for the Muslims in Bulgaria, he requested certain documentation from the Bulgarian delegation in order to determine whether that group did in fact enjoy all its human rights. He paid tribute to the agreement reached in Sri Lanka and hoped it would be fully implemented.

John CAREY, expert from the United States, responding to the comments by his Cuban colleague, said he himself was grateful that answers had been provided to some of his own questions even though those answers had not always been complete or fully satisfactory.

GU Yijie, expert from China, said that while the situation of the Ahmadis was not clear, problems relating to religious groups and minorities existed in many countries. She had her doubts that the problem of the Ahmadis was one of a massive violation of their human rights and therefore she thought it was a bit unfair to stress this question here.

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